

*Late
written only
No request*

E HO'OPONOPONO KAKOU I NA 'EHA I MEA E HO'OLA
AI KA LAHUI. (Let us heal the pain in order to give life to our nation.)

Nov.22,1999

Aloha Mr. Berry and Mr. Van Norman,

First of all I would like to thank you and President Clinton for taking the time in gathering testimony and trying to get a sense of understanding towards reconciliation. For myself my greatest confusion is a semantics' one. What exactly does the word reconciliation mean? Is it more then just a formal apology where native peoples of Hawai'i our actually entitled to receive some form of reparations. If so how much and in what form and who would be in charge of seeing that everyone got their equal share? This all seems such a complicated issue that for two of you to gather, next make sense of, and then try to come forward with a comprehensive plan before the Clinton administration has ended.

Being that things take time and your world is dictated by a bureaucracy and millions of miles of red tape, I would like to see you folks take a priority over certain more attainable issue's versus the ones that will take more time then the Clinton administration has left. For instance, land issue's should be addressed and could be resolved if you able to find away to keep the wording simple and to the point. I believe every Hawaiian person that is currently on the Hawaiian home land waiting list, should be provided their land. There is more then enough land and it is a crying shame that people with a blood quota of 50% or more Hawaiian blood should continue dying off before they can get their land and be given a chance to pass their legacy on to their children who would not be able to receive their parents entitlement once they have died.

My hope for all the people of Hawai'i is to work towards becoming more self-sufficient. We must stop being so dependent on imported goods. My hope is that reconciliation becomes a two way street in that not only can we ask for certain types of reparations, but that we as a collective society would look toward taking actions that will move us forward towards self-sufficiency. By doing this we are allowing the strength of our ancestors to continue being our role models who needed no support from imported goods for their survival. "Na wai ho'i ka 'ole o ke akamai, he alanui i ma'a i ka hele 'ia e o'u mau makau?" (Why shouldn't I know, when it is a road often traveled by my parents?). (Pukui, 1983. p.251)

In just a hundred years we have become so dependent on the U.S. mainland for our daily needs that it is my hope that reconciliation will push us to want less from the federal government and to depend more upon our abundant local resources that are available if we only look for them.

I also hope that you are able to visit the statewide programs that are currently teaching self-sufficient curriculums such as the ones offered through the Hawaiian Emerson schools. The more freedom that educators are allowed to teach related subjects, that pertain to self-sufficiency, such as teaching children how to grow food, composting and recycling the less economically dependent on the federal government we we'll become and that is really what I believe is in the best interest of both parties. We as a people should not be forced to educate our children through the department of Education standards that for the most part of far outdated and do not pertain to our local ideology. In closure I would really like to know what will happen next after you leave? Will we hear from you again? Can you continue to stay in contact with us to keep us updated with your progress.

Mahalo Nui Loa for all your heartfelt efforts,

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“KNOWLEDGE IS DERIVED FROM ACTION...
TO KNOW AN OBJECT IS TO ACT UPON IT AND
TRANSFORM IT” (Ira Shor)

“SO IT IS NOT SO MUCH THAT WE LEARNED TO BE
FIERCELY INDEPENDENT, BUT THAT WE STOOD FOR SOME
SORT OF UNIQUENESS.” (Interview with Ed Kanahale, done by
Manu Meyer, 1/15/97)